Illegal mining in Karnataka

2799. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been receiving repeated complaints about the illegal mining and exploitation of labour in the Bellary district of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what action Government have initiated to deal with the kingpins of this racket who are robbing Government of crores of rupees in excise revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Some instances of illegal mining and exploitation of labour have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining lease. Since the mineral rights and collection of revenue vests with the State Government, and police and law & order machinery is with the respective States, full powers to curb illegal mining have been delegated to the State Government as per the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. The State Government has set up a Commission on Enquiry, which will also assess the quantum of losses to the Government due to illegal mining. The Central Government has also directed State Governments to frame rules under section 23C of MMDR Act, constitute task forces at State/ District level for preventing of illegal mining and furnish quarterly return on illegal mining for review by Ministry of Mines. During the year 2005-06, State Government of Karnataka has realized total fine Rs.191.4 lakhs and for 2006-07 (till June, 2006) Rs. 41 lakhs for royalty, cess, taxes and penalty.

Strategic alloys for defence organisations

†2800. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether strategic alloys which were being manufactured in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited before its disinvestments, are still being manufactured therefor defence organizations;

(b) if not, whether that chemical formula was withdrawn by Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, whether this formula is under possession of the private management; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) has informed that it has been producing and continues to produce, albeit much larger volumes of aluminium alloy rolled products in the form of sheets and plates conforming to published international specifications and supplying to various customers including Defence and Space organizations, who use them as raw materials for manufacturing components, assemblies or equipment to meet their specific needs. BALCO with its in-house Research & Development (R&D) has been developing, producing and supplying alloys, the technical particulars of which are in public domain and available in various publications. No chemical formula was given to BALCO by the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Demand for reservation in Government and Private Sector

†2801. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that along with the educational institutions the demand for reservation is being made in Government as well as private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the persons who have raised this demand before Government till now; and

(c) the reaction of Government in respect of accepting or rejecting this demand?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Government receives from time to time representations for reservation from various quarters. The details are not Centrally maintained. Reservation in employment in Government service is provided for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, As far as

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